



# WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the Town Hall on  
Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 9.45am

Present: Cllr C Bentley  
Cllr H Chapman (Chair)  
Cllr D Frame  
Cllr V Hawkins  
Cllr G Wilkinson

In Attendance: Mrs I Taylor – Town Clerk  
Mrs M Holmes – Deputy Clerk

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Moss. Apologies accepted.

### 2. Minutes of Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

The Minutes had been circulated and were approved as an accurate record.

### 3. Erosion of banking at Sandringham Park

The Deputy Clerk reported that a resident whose garden backs on to Sandringham Park had reported that two trees on the Sandringham Park banking had blown down in recent winds and erosion of the banking was occurring. Photographs had been provided by Cllr Knight to whom the initial report had been sent. Following discussion it was agreed that the Council should obtain a copy of the Land Registry plan for the property in order to determine the position of the boundary. Hart Law should then be asked to advise on the legal responsibility. The Town Handyman will be asked to assess whether he can safely remove the fallen trees or whether a contractor should be instructed.

### 4. On-going maintenance and care of trees planted by the Civic Society

The Civic Society has asked if the Council would be prepared to take on the responsibility for the on-going maintenance and management of the trees that the Society have planted around the town. Cllr Hawkins had obtained a schedule of 42 trees that have been planted on The Ings and two trees planted on Scour Bank; one to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and one to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. The Committee agreed that whilst Wetherby Town Council cannot take responsibility for the maintenance of trees on land which it doesn't own it would be happy for the following to happen:

- a) To take over ownership and responsibility for any trees planted by the Civic Society on land owned by Wetherby Town Council.
- b) To receive a schedule of such trees.
- c) To consider future requests in advance of the trees being planted.

### 5. Removal of guards around the trees on Millennium Field

The Deputy Clerk reported that some of the guards around the trees have rotted and need to be replaced or removed. Following discussion it was agreed that all the guards should be removed.



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## **6. Grass cutting contract 2017-22**

### **6.1 Exclusion of press and public for Item 6.2**

**Resolved:** In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended – because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – the meeting be not open to the public during the session of Item 12.2.

### ***Committee in Private Session***

### **6.2 Consideration of Grass Cutting Tenders received**

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk reported that they had met with a contractor as authorised at the last meeting of the Committee. Several sites had been visited and the requirements discussed. The Contractor's responses had all been positive.

### ***Conclusion of Private Session***

### **6.3 Recommended Contractor**

**Resolved:** To recommend that Farm & Land Services Ltd be awarded the grass cutting contract from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## **7. Items for Information**

### **7.1 Gatehouse at Mercure Roundabout**

An email had been received from the Estates Property Manager of West Yorkshire Police requesting a meeting with members of the Council to informally discuss the future of the Gatehouse. It was agreed that the Estate Property Manager be invited to the next meeting of the Property Committee.

### **7.2 Signboards on the Harland Way**

Cllr Bentley asked if who was responsible for the signboards on the Harland Way as these were in a very poor state of repair/ had been vandalised. Cllr Chapman confirmed that the Paths Partnership were undertaking a survey to report the state of the signage to Leeds City Council who are already aware of the problem.

### **7.3 Noticeboard at the Station Car Park**

Cllr Hawkins asked if the Location Board would be erected in the Station Car Park. The Town Clerk confirmed that it would and would notify Cllr Hawkins when the base was in situ in order that he could arrange for the contractor to fit the Location Board.

### **7.4 Dog Poo Bag Dispensers**

The Town Clerk asked if the erection of dog poo bag dispensers had been discussed. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that they had been provided at Freeman's Way and the Ward Councillors had funded them in Boston Spa. Following discussion, Cllr Wilkinson confirmed he would ask if there had been any problems with the dispensers in Boston Spa. He would also discuss with his Ward Colleagues whether they may be able to make funds available for some in Wetherby if the Committee agreed this was appropriate.

### **7.5 Sponsorship of flower bed by Friends of Wharfedale House**

Friends of Wharfedale House are considering sponsoring a flower bed in the town in honour of the centenary of the birth of their founder Leonard Cheshire. It was agreed that this was a



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very generous offer and Wetherby in Bloom should be asked to advise on an appropriate possible site and likely costs.

## **7.6 Bench on Deighton Road**

Cllr Wilkinson asked who owned the bench situated on Deighton Road as this needed to be removed in the interest of safety (having been vandalised). It was agreed the bench should be removed and a replacement considered as it is well-used. Cllr Wilkinson was given cost of a new bench and will discuss this with his fellow Ward Councillors. The bench is a memorial bench although the wording was indistinguishable on the photograph available. Cllr Hawkins undertook to check and let the Deputy Clerk know the actual wording. Steps could then be taken to inform the benefactors and ask if they wished to donate a new bench. *(The inscription on the bench reads "Donated by Friends of Reg and Nita Allenby April 1992")*

## **7.7 Wetherby Bike Trails**

The Town Clerk reported that, subject to the agreement of Council next week, it was hoped that the construction of the junior bike skills area, on land adjacent to Millennium Field, would take place on the weekend of 21 April (before the Tour de Yorkshire). The organisers had asked if the Council would wish a bench and bin to be installed in the area and if so, whether the Council would be able to empty the bin. The Committee were informed the Town Handyman would be able to empty a bin if one was installed. The Committee agreed that a bench and a bin would be welcome if funds allowed.

## **7.8 Metal Detecting at Scaur Bank**

A letter had been received from an independent metal detector asking for permission to conduct a search at Scaur Bank. Following consideration, it was agreed that the request should be refused.

## **7.9 Tree in Masons Field**

The Deputy Clerk reported that the resident on Third Avenue was not prepared to donate half the cost of the tree work. Because the work was not necessary on the grounds of safety or the well-being of the tree, it was agreed that the Council were unable to fund the whole of the costs and the work would not therefore be undertaken.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

As the Estates Property Manager of WY Police is to be invited to the next meeting, two dates were suggested, namely Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. The Deputy Clerk will approach the Estate Property Manager to check his availability for these dates and will confirm the meeting date to the Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.35am

HC/MA